In Smith, H. I. (1928-1933) 1929
MSS Bellacoola MSS

[illegible] MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT AMONG THE BELLACOOLA

By [illegible]

Most of the Bellacoola Indians today believe in sympathetic magic and witchcraft, after over a hundred years of contact with white men. Most of them live within hearing of the bells of the mission church, and the government school. Not a few of the men take logging contracts, some of them build and operate motor boats, many of them join the fishing fleets of the salmon canneries, most of the women work in the canneries, and all deal at the white men's stores.

The Bellacoola lived at the heads of the long inlets that map the Pacific Coast of Canada and in the tributary Bella Coola valley. Now, numbering perhaps two hundred and fifty, they, with the exception of a few families on the reservation at the mouth of the Bella Coola river. The Bella Coola valley has been called the Norway of Canada. This was where Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the first white man to cross Canada overland, reached the sea.

Aboriginally, the Bellacoola were of the North Pacific Coast culture of America, which is characterized by the extensive use of red cedar and its products, particularly salmon, the making of graceful, sea-going canoes, each hewn from a single cedar, the erection of large rectangular houses made of cedar planks, with carved house posts and totem poles, both of pottery, and expertness in sculpture work, carving, and painting. The salmon belongs to the hundred men, but the Bellacoolas were secondary to a notable extent. The art of the area was that best known from the paintings and carvings of the totem poles, lengthy of unsurpassed artistic forms. The life centred around a very highly developed social organization, an extensive and powerful chiefship system, and property rights in names, rituals and beliefs. The Bellacoola language is one of the Salish linguistic stock. They